

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

FENCE

(Feet)

CODE 382

DEFINITION

A constructed barrier to animals or people.

PURPOSES

This practice is applied to facilitate the application of conservation practices by providing a means to control movement of animals and people.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice may be applied on any area where management of animal or people movement is needed. Fences are not needed where natural barriers will serve the purpose.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

Fencing materials, type and design of fence installed shall be of a high quality and durability. The type and design of fence installed will meet the management objectives and topographic challenges of the site.

Fences shall be positioned to facilitate management requirements. The fence design and installation shall follow all federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Height, size, spacing, and type of materials used will provide the desired control and management of animal and people of concern.

CONSIDERATIONS

The fence design and location should consider: location, kind, and adequacy of livestock water facilities, topography, soil properties, safety and management of livestock, wildlife movement, development of potential grazing systems,

human access, landscape aesthetics, erosion problems, moisture conditions, flooding potential, stream crossings, and durability of materials.

Where applicable, cleared rights-of-way may be established which would facilitate fence construction and maintenance. All necessary erosion control measures will be applied to any cleared areas.

Fences across gullies, canyons, or streams may require special bracing, designs, or approaches.

Fence design and location should consider ease of access for construction, repair, and maintenance.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications are to be prepared for specific sites based on this standard.

Plans and specifications for installing fences shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve all of its intended purposes.

All authorized state and federal program cost-shared fence items must meet Construction Specification 382, Fencing.

The specifications for "Livestock Fences" shall be used for the control or exclusion of livestock on normal farm and ranch operations.

The specifications for "Special Area Fences" shall be used on all Watershed (PL-566) and Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) structures and as needed on other project-type structures such as state-funded dams or areas providing public safety.

The conservation plan will include the following information as a minimum when fence is listed as a component:

1. Location – Plan map (done to the National Planning Procedures Handbook) indicating approximate location.
2. Purpose(s).
3. Planning considerations pertinent to the lifespan or the construction of the practice (as applicable for project-type or specific sites).
4. Type of fence and associated specifications (or Field Sheet KS-ECS-12) with construction drawings.
5. Applicable erosion control measures (as applicable).

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Regular inspection of fences should be part of an on-going maintenance program. Inspection of fences after storm events is necessary to ensure the continued proper function of the fence. Maintenance and repairs will be performed in a timely manner as needed.

Retain and properly discard of all broken fencing material and hardware.

All necessary precautions should be taken to ensure the safety of construction and maintenance crews.